

RE:FOCUS

LEADER'S GUIDE - JANUARY 20

ICEBREAKER: Share the best guided tour that you have taken (Where was it, how was the guide, what did you see, etc.). For a guided tour to work, what must you as the “tourist” do? Follow. For a guided tour to work, we must do what the guide does and go where the guide goes.

*Over the last three weeks, The Chapel has shared its new mission statement: To help people meet, know, and follow Jesus! To **meet** Jesus means to enter into a personal relationship with him, to **know** him is to become like him through engaging in his Word and community and to **follow** him is to do what he did and go where he went. Today, we are going to discuss a story of how Jesus’ disciples left everything to follow him!*

H

HIGHLIGHT: *Primary Passage from Sunday*

Luke 5:1-11: One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ²He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”⁵Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ⁹For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” ¹¹So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him

E

EXPLAIN: *To Be Reviewed before the group gathering*

In today’s text we see Jesus call Peter (and Andrew, James, & John) to follow Him. All of it began with a single small step of faith - whether or not Peter would cast his nets into deep water when it made no sense at all. Peter had no clue what hung in the balance of his obedience to Jesus, because what we see in the story is Peter’s small step of faith opened the door to God’s amazing faithfulness.

A

APPLY: For Group Discussion

1.) Read verses 1-5. What do you think Simon Peter's thoughts were about Jesus' command to put out the net one more time? Jesus' command did not make sense. It went against everything that Peter knew about fishing. **Why did Simon Peter agree to throw out the net one more time?** "Because you say so..." Simon Peter put his trust in Jesus despite him not understanding why.

2.) We can all relate with Simon Peter. Share a time where following Jesus did not make sense to you or others. *Examples: This could be a command in the Bible that you don't understand why it is important, a situation that you are in that you don't see any way it could be good, or a life decision you made through prayer that didn't make the most sense to you or others.*

3.) Read verses 6-8. Why do you think Simon responded by saying "Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful man?" Peter saw Jesus for who he was. He saw the holiness of Jesus which then revealed to him how unworthy he was of being near him. **What allowed Peter to have this revelation of Jesus?** Peter's revelation was a result of his faith and obedience. He trusted Jesus when it didn't make sense and did what Jesus called him to do.

4.) Read verses 9-11. What did following Jesus cost the disciples? They "left everything:" their jobs, their family, their social status, etc. **What does their willingness to "leave everything" and follow Jesus say about Jesus? About the benefit of following him?** The disciples' response speaks to who Jesus was. He was worth losing everything to follow.

R

RESPOND: Bringing the discussion to a point of action

Big Takeaway: How can we follow Peter's example of following Jesus? What net is God asking us to throw? What deep water is he calling you to? These questions help identify how God has wired you and what opportunities exist at The Chapel for you to follow Jesus and help others meet, know, and follow him.

- 1.) What is something that you are passionate about (e.g. Connecting people, teaching, children, etc.)? What is something you are gifted in (e.g. personality, skill, etc.)?**
- 2.) What are some potential opportunities in the church (or outside of it) where you could use these passions and/or gifts to help others meet, know, and follow Jesus?**

A list of service opportunities at The Chapel:

- Children's Ministry
- Student Ministry
- Door or Parking Lot Greeter
- New Here Tent
- Usher
- Community Group Leader
- Community Group Host
- Worship Team
- Tech Team
- Wildwood Mentor